

Dear Lady, and Gentlemen,

I am writing this because I feel that you should all realize the immense impact of your decision on this very important ruling. I sincerely do not want to see any more common news rooms in a single market. This appears to be the first steps towards government run news, and I (as well as many millions of others) will not put up with it. It also puts the small business stations in jeopardy of being forced out of the broadcast market, or forced to sell their stations to the big businesses that really need to be harnessed as it is.

I currently live in the San Jose/San Francisco market. I listen to KFRC Radio, which is owned by the same company as K I am therefore limited to news provided by the TV station. This is a major breach in the freedom of information that I get from news services. If I wanted to listen to or watch CBS for my news, I could get it from the CBS TV affiliate, not their radio station.

News organizations compete with each other to get the latest and greatest information to the public. This is a healthy competition that should not be limited by single ownership of a group of stations in the same market. To a certain extent, I can understand a newspaper organization owning a TV station, and using a combined effort to get the same news out, because it is two different markets (Printed, and Electronic media). However, to have two, or more TV stations in the same market with the same news team makes no sense. A prime example is KCRA TV, and KQCA TV in Sacramento. Stations that are owned by the same company. Programming is not the problem here, as one is NBC, and the other is WB. The problem is that there is a single news department for both stations. Granted, the two stations do not broadcast the same news at the same time, but that is not the issue. They are the same news organization! Would you depend on the news of a single organization? I think not! In my market, Cox Broadcasting transmits its news on two stations at once. One in San Francisco, and the other in San Jose. Both are basically in the same market. One transmits further north, and the other further south. The main markets are basically the same.

The major point having been stated, the secondary, and almost equal point, is that big business has been a serious problem in the US for some time now, with Enron and all. Smaller, family owned businesses are being driven out by big business, and should not be pushed aside again by big business. I am registered as a Republican, but I am concerned about the party's growing support of big business over the general populous. Big Business means Big Dollars for the party! However, Big Business is not the general population, who you work for. It supplies bucks for the party, but does not vote for you. I would hate to see the day that Big Business became dictators to the general population. The scary part is that I am seeing the beginnings of it here, with big business vs. small business, and the general population, as well as big business footing the bills for political gains. When will you learn that there are more Enron's out there, with their only thoughts to get more bucks, to the point of taking advantage of the general population!

Please! Take all due consideration on this subject. I don't expect this single decision to drive us into dictatorship, but it sure seems to be a step towards it.

Sincerely,

Tom Thornton